

MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 26: SWIMMING POOLS

26.1 There are currently no full-size, 25m swimming pools available for public swimming in Malvern Hills District. However, Malvern St James College has recently applied for planning permission to construct one as part of a wider upgrade of its sports facilities, which will include a new sports hall. This will be developed in two stages, with the swimming pool part of the second phase, due to commence in 2009/10.

Table 26.1: Description of swimming pools in Malvern Hills District (see next page)

ID	Site	Size	Type
1	Malvern Splash Leisure Centre	25m	Leisure pool (no lanes)
2	Tenbury Swimming Pool	25m	Leisure pool (6 lanes)
3	Malvern St James College	22m	Leisure pool (4 lanes)
4	Malvern College	23m	Leisure pool

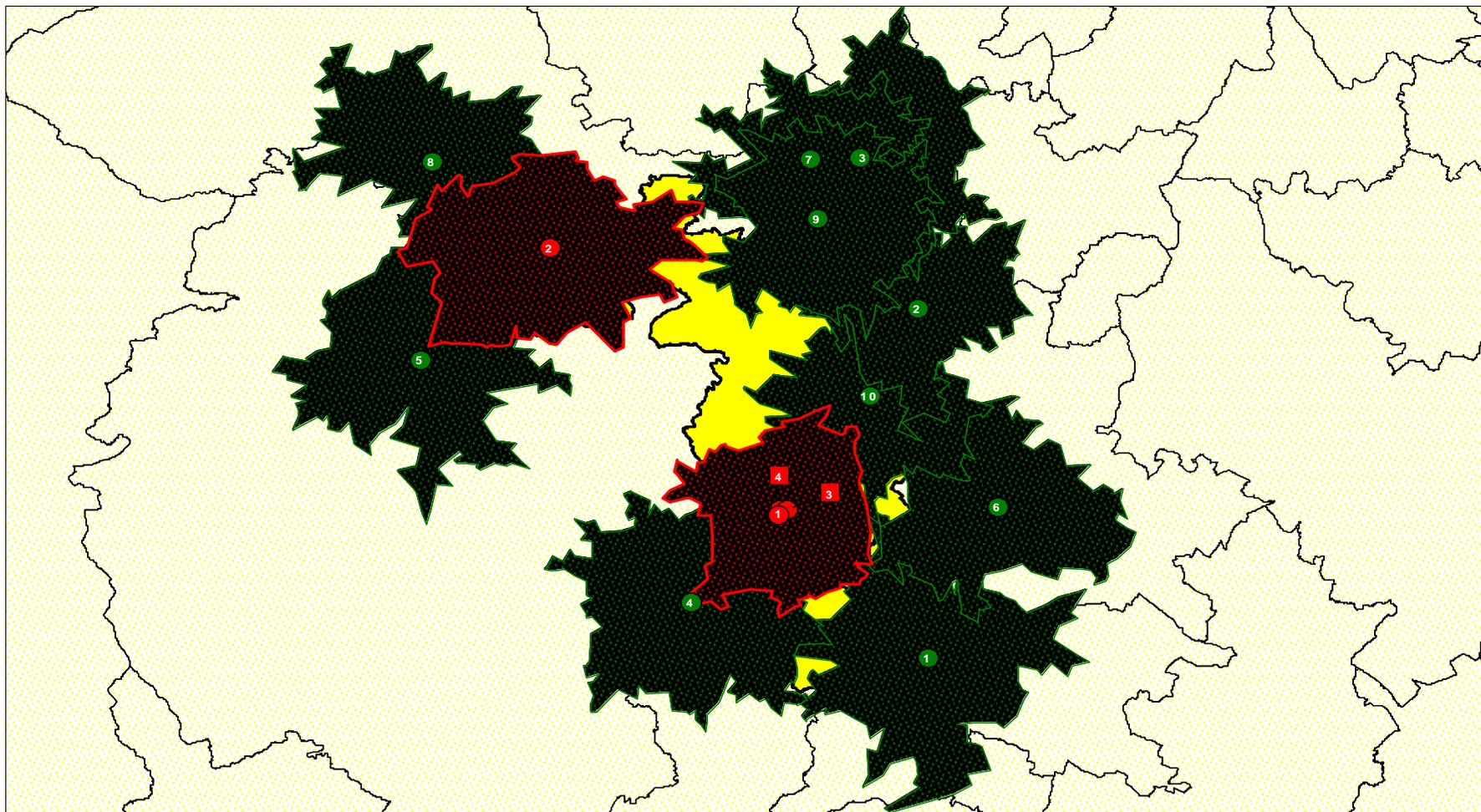
Table 26.2: Location of swimming pools in neighbouring local authorities (see next page)

ID	Site	Local authority area
1	Cascades Swimming Pool	Tewksbury Borough Council
2	Droitwich Sports & Leisure Centre	Wychavon District Council
3	King Charles High School Sports Centre	Wyre Forest District Council
4	Ledbury Swimming Pool	Herefordshire Council
5	Leominster Leisure Centre	Herefordshire Council
6	Pershore Leisure Centre	Wychavon District Council
7	Sebastian Coe Health Club	Worcester City Council
8	South Shropshire Leisure Centre	South Shropshire District Council
9	Stourport Sports Centre	Wyre Forest District Council
10	Worcester Swimming Pool & Fitness Centre	Worcester City Council



MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 26.1: Location of swimming pools in Malvern Hills District with 15-minute drive time



MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis of provision

- 26.2 The two main public swimming pools in Malvern Hills District are located at the Splash Leisure Centre and in Tenbury Wells. Neither pool is competition standard.
- 26.3 There are a number of facilities in neighbouring local authorities with catchment areas covering Malvern Hills District. However, there are some catchment gaps, particularly in the north-west of the District, where residents do not have a swimming pool within the Sport England recommended 15-minute drive time.

Malvern Splash Leisure Complex

- 26.4 The Splash Leisure Complex is the premier leisure facility in Malvern Hills District. It is located in central Malvern adjacent to Priory Park. It is owned by MHDC, but SLM manages the facility on its behalf. Its indoor facilities include:
- 25m leisure pool.
 - 5m teaching pool.
 - Fitness suite (65 stations).
 - Dance studio.
 - Sauna/steam room.
 - Cafeteria.
- 26.5 A major refurbishment of the Centre took place in 2003, which was part-funded by MHDC and SLM. This included an upgrade of the fitness suite, which is now well equipped with a complete range of cardio-vascular equipment and is well used by the local community, including organised instructor classes. Current membership stands at around 1,650.
- 26.6 The swimming pool is predominantly used as a leisure pool and there is no competitive swimming club attached to it. However, SLM does run a centre-based club as an exit route for the Learn to Swim Programme (LtS). The LtS Programme has a 2,000-user throughput each week. There is no waiting list in operation and consultation indicates that the capacity of the sessions could be 2,400 if required. Various programmes, ranging from toddler to adult sessions, run throughout the year. Demand is being met through the sessions currently available.
- 26.7 The only issue appertains to the access to the facility in relation to the car park adjacent to the Centre. Due to its town centre location, the car park is a designated pay and display area, and consultation suggests that this deters some people from outlying villages from using the facility.

MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY:

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Tenbury Swimming Pool

26.8 The facility at Tenbury Wells is also managed by SLM and is a good quality facility. It also runs a significant swimming programmes and the LtS throughput totals is around 700. A number of local schools use Tenbury Swimming Pool to satisfy key stage curriculum swim targets, including Tenbury High School and Tenbury Primary School. Other schools from Shropshire and Herefordshire also travel for sessions, which take place at off peak times.

Other provision

26.9 Malvern St. James College and Malvern College both have swimming pools, primarily for use by pupils. However, the facility at Malvern College is used significantly by local groups. The College was unable to provide KKP with a timetable of usage, but consultation suggests that it is used by primary schools to facilitate the 'Learn to Swim' Programme on Wednesday mornings, and other community groups such as Milestones Swimming Club and the sea cadets. However, KKP is unable to ascertain whether this usage is formal or one-off hires.

26.10 The facility at Malvern St. James College is also used by community clubs. There are plans to formalise these links through formal community use agreements at the new, proposed facility.

Summary of key sport issues

Tenbury Swimming Club

26.11 Tenbury Swimming Club uses Tenbury Wells Swimming Pool on Tuesday evenings, where it has a two-hour session. The Club has requested an additional night in order to split its junior and senior members, but SLM states that the facility does not have the programming capacity to accommodate extra club sessions. The Club concentrates on providing stamina and style training and is therefore fundamentally different from those sessions provide by SLM through the 'Learn to Swim' programme. It has access to one coach, who travels from Ludlow to facilitate the sessions. It requires more coaches but there are none in the area able or willing to take sessions. This restricts the numbers permitted to take part in the sessions, and there is unmet demand for local children to join the Club, but this would exceed the coach to pupil ratio, which is already double the recommended Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) target of one coach per four pupils. As a solution, the Club is considering paying level 2 coaches to take the sessions, but this would result in a significant increase in subs, and this solution is not considered to be financially sustainable by some club members.

MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis of demand for swimming pools

Table 26.3: Active Places Power analysis of demand for sports halls

	Current	Future (2016)
Capacity	5514	5514
Demand	3873	4278
Balance	1641	1236
% demand met	142.36%	128.89%

26.12 Active Places Power shows an over provision of swimming pools in the District. However, it does not take into account the nature of provision. Whilst there is expected to be an over-supply in the future, consultation identifies the importance of providing a 25m swimming pool in Malvern Hills District and securing community access for both clubs and the public. The proposed swimming development at Malvern St James College will cater for any current and future demand for a competition swimming pool facility in the District.

Swimming summary

Current provision

- There are currently no full-size, 25m swimming pools available for public swimming in Malvern Hills District.

Future provision

- However, Malvern St James College has recently applied for planning permission to construct one as part of a wider upgrade of its sports facilities, which will include a new sports hall. This will be developed in two stages, with the swimming pool part of the second phase, due to commence in 2009/10. This will provide a 25 metre pool available for community and club use, meeting identified demand.

Other issues

- Tenbury Swimming Club is at capacity despite a demand from the local area to participate in sessions. A lack of additional slots and a lack of accessible coaches limit the current levels of participation.
- There is some community use of the swimming pools at Malvern St. James College and Malvern College.
- The new proposed development at Malvern St. James College will provide a competition standard pool in Malvern Hills.
- MHDC should ensure that community use of the proposed 25m swimming pool at Malvern St James College is assured via a formal community use agreement.